

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 079899 TOSEC 030021
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE

USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 079899 TOSEC 030021

NODIS

ANKARA FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY, FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, MNUC

SUBJECT: PRESS STORIES ON ERW

REF: STATE 71465

1. THE MARCH 28 EDITIONS OF THE WASHINGTON POST AND NEW YORK TIMES CARRIED STORIES INDICATING THE U.S. CALLED OFF NATO CONSULTATIONS IN BRUSSELS WHICH WERE INTENDED TO GAIN ALLIED SUPPORT FOR THE U.S. APPROACH ON ERW. THE POST
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ARTICLE ALSO INDICATED THAT A HIGH-LEVEL CARTER AIDE WILL GO TO EUROPE SOON TO EXPLAIN THE PRESIDENT'S NEW APPROACH ON ERW. TEXTS OF THESE ARTICLES CARRIED IN THE MARCH 28 WIRELESS FILE. -

2. THE LINE WE ARE TAKING IN RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS RAISED BY THIS STORY IS:

--WE ARE STILL CONSULTING WITH THE NATO ALLIES ON THIS QUESTION, AND WILL HAVE NO FURTHER COMMENT UNTIL THESE CONSULTATIONS ARE COMPLETED.

3. CONCERNING THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S TRIP, WE MADE THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE PRESS.

DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE WARREN CHRISTOPHER, ACCOMPANIED BY MATTHEW NIMETZ, COUNSELOR OF THE DEPARTMENT, AND GEORGE VEST, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, LEFT WASHINGTON IN THE EVENING OF MARCH 27 FOR TURKEY, THE FRG AND THE U.K. IN ANKARA, THEY WILL MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT TO DISCUSS NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND BILATERAL MATTERS, AND ECONOMIC ISSUES. THEY WILL BE CONSULTING SENIOR WEST GERMAN AND BRITISH OFFICIALS ON ALLIANCE ISSUES. THEY ARE EXPECTED TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON AT THE END OF THE WEEK.

4. WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S TRIP IS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ERW CONSULTATIONS, WE REPLIED THAT THE TRIP IS TO DISCUSS ALLIANCE MATTERS AND DID NOT ELABORATE.

5. POSTS MAY DRAW ON THE CONTENT OF PARAGRAPHS 2, 3 AND 4 ABOVE AS NEEDED. COOPER

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